

A STUDY OF AUTHORITY

PART 3

INTRODUCTION

1. Review of Last two Lessons
 - a. Began with a definition of Authority
 - b. Spoke of recognizing the need for Authority in Business, Home, School.
 - c. Authority is also needed in Religious Matters
 - d. Christ is Our Authority
 - e. Last week dealt with Three Ways of establishing Authority.
 - 1) Direct Command
 - 2) Apostolic Example
 - 3) Necessary.
2. This Week Want to Look At.
 - a. Two Kinds of Authority
 - b. What Is An Expedience.

I. GENERIC AND SPECIFIC AUTHORITY

- A. Generic - ``*General opposite to specific*'' Webster
 1. Generic includes all methods or ways for doing the thing Authorized.
 - B. Specific - ``*precisely formulated or restricted; specifying or explicit.*''
 1. Thus specific authority restricts one to that which is precisely or explicit.
 - C. Examples of the two kinds of Authority.
 1. Genesis 6:14-16
 - a. Build the Ark Generic authority
 - b. Gopher wood is specific authority
 2. Exodus 12:1-10
 - a. Animal would be a form of Generic Authority
 - b. Notice verse 5 specific authority.
 3. Matt. 28:18-20
 - a. Go would be generic authority

II. EXPEDIENCY

- A. Men seek to justify a multitude of things by saying they can be practiced as expediencies.
 1. Common concept the end justifies the means so that anything that will accomplish what we think to be good, whether authorized or not is permissible.
 2. In order for a thing to be a scriptural expediency it must facilitate in the accomplishment of God's will and must harmonize with his word.
 3. The word expediency in human wisdom involves the right of choice within the realm of those things included in what God authorized.
- B. For a thing to be Expedient it must be lawful.
 1. 1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23
 2. That which is not authorized is unlawful thus sinful
 - 2 John 9 - 11; 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 14:23
 3. Unlawful things cannot be expedients even if we think they facilitate the accomplishment of the Lord's Will.
 - a. Keep in mind the Preacher or the desires of a congregation are not a source of Authority.
- C. For a thing to be Expedient it cannot be Specified.
 1. God specified Gopher wood for the Ark Noah could have used a large or small log.
 2. To go beyond that which God specifies or authorizes is to add to his word not to aid obedience.
 - a. God commands ``*singing*'' Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
 - 1) An instrument of music is not an aid in singing but is an addition to God's commandment.
 - 2) A song leader would be an expediency to carry out the command to sing.
 - b. God commands to dip, submerge, bury in baptism Rom. 6:4
 - 1) Since God has not specified the place to be baptized a baptistery is an expediency.
 - 2) Sprinkling is not an expedient for it is not lawful it doesn't aid but is a substitution thus is sinful.
 - c. Command not to forsake the assembly Heb. 10:25 gives general authority to have a place to meet. Build, buy, rent.
 - d. God specified that the oversight and function of Elders be restricted to the local church Acts 14:23; 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-4
 - e. For the elders of one church to oversee the members monies of another church is not a matter of expediency. Such is not lawful God did not authorize Elders to do such thus it is sin.
- D. For a Thing to be Expedient it must Edify 1 Cor. 10:23-33
 1. All things are to be done unto edification 1 Cor. 14:26
 2. If a thing be a matter of choice or expediency, falling into the realm of human wisdom or judgment and its practice or use causes division in the body of Christ then it is sinful.
- E. For a thing to be Expedient it must not offend the conscience of a Brother. 1 Cor. 10:32; Rom. 14:13-23
 1. This rule only governs in the realm of Expediency.
 2. In matters specified we have no choice but to obey or disobey.
 - 1 Cor. 8:7-13.
- F. An addition to God's Word or a Substitution for God's way cannot be claimed an expedient.
 1. An expedient must first be lawful.
 2. Every addition or substitution is unlawful.
 3. Such is not a matter of expediency, but is a transgression of God's will.